

Talking Points for Rio Conference
June 19, 2012

Hello, I am Congressman Henry Waxman, representing California's 30th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I'm pleased to welcome you to an exciting conversation between leaders in Rio and leaders in Sacramento, California.

I want to start by recognizing the critical work undertaken in Rio this week. It's an opportunity for global leaders, companies, and nongovernmental organizations to come together, share a vision of a sustainable future, and help bring that vision to reality.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the work you're doing to address our local and global environmental issues.

Our future depends on the work we do together.

I hope you will be able to spend some time today discussing clean energy. There is much that needs to be done. We need to promote adoption of clean energy technology that is already available and effective. We need to research and develop the clean energy technologies of the future.

We need to bring those technologies to commercialization and ultimately to widespread adoption. And we need to do all of this quickly, in a way that isn't disruptive to our communities, and in a way that can be affordably achieved.

It's a tall order, but an extremely important one.

Fortunately, during today's conversation, I think you'll find that innovation is alive and well in California.

Finally, I'd like to single out the work of Capstone Turbine, the leading manufacturer of microturbines and a sponsor of today's event. I am proud that they call my district home and I congratulate them on their leadership. I wish I could be with you today in person, and I wish you the best of luck in your work. We are all counting on you.